



DGS Employees of the Week: Team Baltimore Buildings & Grounds

As the snow and wind picked up late Tuesday morning, most of us headed home early before road conditions deteriorated -- but not the Baltimore Buildings and Grounds Team. They were just getting started! For braving frigid temperatures and bone-chilling wind to keep sidewalks, parking lots, crosswalks and stairs clear at State Center and 2100 Guilford Avenue, our DGS Employees of the Week are the intrepid members of the Baltimore Buildings and Grounds Team. Their herculean effort to remove snow during the latest winter storm defines *Doing Great Service*.

The team reported for duty at six Tuesday morning to complete prep work which included refueling tractors, loading up ice melt bags and staging them around the State Center campus. The game plan was to work in shifts and remove snow at a steady pace; with the objective of avoiding too much accumulation. The most difficult area to clear was between the 301 and 201 West Preston Street Buildings. That's because the close proximity of the buildings creates a wind tunnel and produces blizzard-like conditions.



(Front Row, Left-Right) Mike Henry, Norris Hall, Mark Canada, Rob Barnes, John Lusco (Back Row, Left-Right) Sam Simmons, Duane Lucas, Al Westbrook, Jerry Cord, Jason Turnage (Missing) Haneef Goode, Ken Britcher, Ellery Handy and Dan Brooks

"Our guys waged a battle on two fronts – the strong winds and the snow that never stopped," said Dan Campbell, superintendent, Baltimore buildings and grounds. "I saw a lot of team work on display out there. Everyone worked together and stayed as long as they needed to get the job done. Our goal was to clear as much as possible so that clean up on Wednesday morning would be a lot easier."

Throughout the day and into the night, wind gusts reached 40 miles per hour while temperatures hovered in single digits. Armed with snow shovels, tractors, hand-pushed plows and hundreds of bags of ice melt, the Team soldiered on in 90 minute shifts. Assistant superintendent Mike Valenti, who worked one of the hand plows, says he and Dan made sure everyone took a substantial break between shifts to rehydrate, eat and warm up. The snow finally stopped at 11 pm, but the Team didn't. They continued working until 12:30 am on Wednesday.

Some team members headed home, only to have to clear their own driveways; while the others decided to just spend the night in their offices. At 5 am on Wednesday they were back at it, removing snow and making sure employees could safely navigate sidewalks and stairways. As Dan points out, the Team cleared the entire sidewalk area, not just a narrow path down the middle.

DGS would like to thank: Mike Henry, Norris Hall, Mark Canada, Rob Barnes, John Lusco, Sam Simmons, Duane Lucas, Al Westbrook, Jerry Cord, Jason Turnage, Mike Valenti, Haneef Goode, Ken Britcher, Ellery Handy and Dan Brooks.

For **Doing Great Service** by working around-the-clock in the bitter cold to remove snow, the members of Team Baltimore Buildings and Grounds are our DGS Employees of the Week.

DGS would also like to thank the Annapolis and Inner Harbor Complex Teams, along with the maintenance teams at the Multi-Service Centers, who also worked diligently to deal with the winter storm.